

## Références

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**FIRST RECORD OF *AULACOCEPHALUS TEMMINCKI* BLEEKER, 1857 FROM THE RED SEA AND FOUR RARE SPECIES FROM AQABA, JORDAN. Adnan M. Ajiad. Marine Science Station, P.O. Box 195, Aqaba, Jordan.**

**ABSTRACT.**— The morphometric and meristic properties of the teleost, *Aulacocephalus temmincki* Bleeker, 1857, as well as patterns of colour are described. The species is reported for the first time from the Red Sea. The four rare species, *Branchiostegus sawakinensis* Amirthalangam 1969, *Acropoma japonicus* Gunther, 1859, *Epinephelus morrhua* (Val., 1833) and *Ostichthys hypsipterygion sufensis* Golani, 1984 are also described. They respectively belong to the familles : Branchiostegidae, Acropomatidae, Serranidae and Holocentridae.

## Grammistidae

*Aulacocephalus temmincki* has been reported from Mauritius and Japan (Jordan *et al.*, 1913; Kuwamura *et al.*, 1983). To the present the fish has not been collected from the Red Sea (Dor, 1970; Botros, 1971; Dor, 1984). Two specimens 160 mm, 185 mm in total length has been caught by hooks and line from a depth of 90 m from the Jordanian waters of the Gulf of Aqaba during March 1984. (MSS-82 March, 1984. Coll. Ajiad).

*Aulacocephalus* Temminck & Schlegel, 1842. Fauna Japonica, Poiss. : 15, *Aulacocephalus* : Gunther, 1858. Cat. fish., 1 : 173; Jordan, Tanaka & Snyder, 1913. Cat. fish. Japan. : 151.

*Aulacocephalus temmincki* Bleeker, 1857. Verh. Bat. Gen. xxvi : 12.

*Aulacocephalus schlegeli* Gunther, 1859. Cat. fish., I : 173-174.

*Aulacocephalus temmincki* : Jordan, Tanaka & Snyder, 1913. Cat. fish. Japan : 151.

Description of the Red Sea specimens : body elongate, compressed. Depth of body 3.3-3.4 times in standard length; head 2.5-2.54; eye diameter 4.05-4.07 times in head length; snout 2.3-2.54; postorbital 2.4-2.26 - D IX, 12; A III, 9 - Mouth large, maxilla reaches to the anterior part of the eyes when mouth is closed. Teeth villiform in both jaws, vomerine and palatine teeth present. Operculum with 3 distinct spines, the middle closer to upper than lower spine. Preoperculum distinctly serrated, especially at lower limb. Gillrakers 5 on upper, 17 on lower limb.

The spinous part of the dorsal fin lower than the soft. The first dorsal spine half in length of the second, fourth spine the longest, last spine rather shorter than first. Second anal spine slightly longer than third and strongest. Pectoral fin rounded, nearly as long as the ventral fin. Ventral fin, located just below pectoral, has a spine of the same length as the second spine of dorsal fin. Caudal fin truncate. Scales small, ctenoid. Lateral line following dorsal profile, becoming straight below the end of soft dorsal. Branchiostegals 7.

Colour (in fresh specimen) : body brown, dorsally darker. Yellow stripe extends from the snout through the eye along the upper part of the body to the base of caudal fin on each side.

## Branchiostegidae

*Branchiostegus sawakinensis* Amirthalangam, 1969.

*Branchiostegus sawakinensis* : Clark & Ben-Tuvia, 1973. *Sea fish. Res. Stn. Bull.* 60 : 73; Dor, 1984. Check list fish. Red Sea : 120.

One specimen 300 mm in T.L., 250 mm in S.L. was caught by hooks and line from a depth of 130 m (MSS-155, November 1985, Coll. A. Ajiad). D X111,15; AII, 12. Body depth 3.4 times in S.L.; head 3.4. Eyes 3.04 times in head length; snout 3.5; postorbital 2.5.

According to Clark & Ben-Tuvia (1973) the fish is close to *B. japonicus* (Houttuyn)

except for slight differences in the pattern of colour, length and shape of some gillrakers. Not previously reported from the Gulf of Aqaba.

Distribution : Red Sea, Natal.

### Acropomatidae

*Acropoma japonicus* Gunther, 1859

*Acropoma japonicum* Gunther, 1859. Cat. fish. Brit. Mus., 1 : 250.

*Acropoma japonicum* : Jordan, Tanaka & Snyder, 1913. Cat. fish. Japan. 145, fig. 104.

A single specimen (111 mm in total length) of *A. japonicus* was recorded recently from the Red Sea (Ben-Tuvia, 1982). On October 10, 1985 a second specimen was caught by hooks and line from a depth of 200 m (MSS-160 October, 1985, Coll. Ajiad).

185 mm in total length ; 155 mm in standard length. Body depth 3.1 times in S.L.; head 2.58. Eye 3 times in H.L.; snout 3.16 ; post-orbital 2.07. D<sub>1</sub> VII ; D<sub>2</sub> I, 10 ; A III, 7.

Distribution : Sea of Japan, Natal.

### Serranidae

*Serranus morrhuia* Valenciennes in Cuv. & Val., 1833. Hist. nat. Poiss. IX : 434.

*Serranus morrhuia* : Klunzinger, 1870. Syn. fish R.M. : 678.

*Epinephelus morrhuia* : Randall & Ben Tuvia, 1983. Bull. Mar. Scien., 33 (2) : 408, fig. 17.

Two specimens 415 and 325 mm in total length, 345 and 275 mm in standard length were caught by hooks from a depth of 170 m (MSS-133, July 1985).

The present species was not reported from the Gulf of Aqaba. D IX, 15 ; A III, 8. Body depth 3.32-3.13 times in S.L., head 2.6-2.7. Eye diameter 5.07-4.04 times in H.L., snout 3.57-3.26 ; postorbital 1.89-1.91.

Distribution : Japan, Mauritius.

### Holocentridae

*Ostichthys hypsipterygion sufensis* Golani, 1984. Cybium 8 (3) : 97-102, Fig. 1, 2.

A single specimen, 180 mm in T.L., 145 mm in S.L., was caught by hooks and line from a depth of 200 m (MSS-165, November, 1985, Coll. Ajiad). D XII, 13 ; A IV, 12. Body depth

2.07 times in S.L., head 2.45. Eye diameter 3 times in H.L.; snout 4 ; postorbital 2.

Distribution : Gulf of Aqaba.

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